

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 ACDA-07 DHA-02

TRSE-00 MC-02 IGA-02 /109 W

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P R 251215Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8479

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY SANA

USCINCEUR

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 6503

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KE, ET, SO

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER ON HORN OF AFRICA ISSUES

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI SAYS SOMALIA HAS REVIVED OLD IDEA OF FEDERATION WITH KENYA IN RECENT WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FROM SIAD BARRE. KENYA IS "STUDYING PROPOSAL" WITH SKEPTICAL EYE, BUT HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO UPGRADE
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CONTACTS WITH SOMALIA FROM LEVEL OF BORDER OFFICIALS TO FULL INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMISSION. SOMALIA HAS ALSO ASKED FOR VISIT OF LARGE KENYAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION. AT SAME TIME, KENYA IS NOT NEGLECTING RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA. KENYA HAS ASKED ETHIOPIA TO MEDIATE KENYA-TANZANIA FEUD. KENYA IS AWARE OF SAUDI, SUDANESE AND EGYPTIAN EFFORTS TO NUDGE SOMALIA OUT OF SOVIET CAMP, WITH SAUDIS PICKING UP THE TAB.

SHEIKH ZAYID OF UAE TOLD WAIYAKI HE WOULD ALSO HELP SOMALIA FINANCIALLY IF IT LEFT MOSCOW'S ORBIT. END SUMMARY.

2. MY CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI MAY 24 TO REVIEW U.S. ARMS SALES POLICY (SEPTTEL) LED TO HALF-HOUR DISCUSSION CENTERED ON HORN OF AFRICA. WAIYAKI SAID KENYA HAD DECIDED TO INTENSIFY RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA. IN A RECENT COMMUNICATION, PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE HAD PROPOSED A FEDERATION WITH KENYA, REVIVING AN OLD IDEA. KENYA WOULD HAVE TO "STUDY CAREFULLY" ANY SUCH SCHEME, WHICH IN ANY EVENT WOULD FACE MAJOR HURDLES IN GAINING ACCEPTANCE FROM PARLIAMENT AND KENYA GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, KENYA HAD INDICATED ITS READINESS TO UPGRADE EXISTING CONTACTS OF LOCAL-LEVEL OFFICIALS ON KENYA-SOMALIA BORDER TO FULL INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMISSION, SIMILAR TO ARRANGEMENTS KENYA HAS WITH SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA. WAIYAKI ADDED THAT SOMALIS WERE ALSO PRESSING FOR VISIT TO MOGADISCIO OF LARGE KENYAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP--THE WHOLE PARLIAMENT IF KENYA WISHED. (COMMENT: LAST SUCH PARLIMENTARY EXCHANGE WITH SOMALIA OCCURRED ABOUT A YEAR BEFORE SIAD TOOK POWER).

3. WAIYAKI SAID KENYA WAS NOT NEGLECTING RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA. HE MADE NO EFFORT TO CONCEAL HIS MISGIVINGS ABOUT ETHIOPIA'S NEW SOVIET CONNECTION, BUT HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THAT NOT ALL MEMBERS OF THE DERGUE WERE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THIS MOVE. IN AN ASIDE, HE RECALLED HOW EX-FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE WODAJO HAD CONFIDED TO HIM THAT MANY ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS OPPOSED EXCESSIVE MARXIST ORIENTATION OF REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, IT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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CLEAR IN WAIYAKI'S VIEW THAT MENGISTU WAS BEING TUTORED BY CONVINCED MARXISTS, WHATEVER THE REST OF THE DERGUE MIGHT THINK.

4. WAIYAKI RECALLED A CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD ON SUNDAY MORNING WITH EC COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON, WHO HAD JUST COME FROM TWO-AND-A-HALF HOUR MEETING WITH MENGISTU. CHEYSSON SAID ETHIOPIA WANTED EC TO PARTICIPATE IN LARGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, AND DISPLAYED INTEREST IN POSSIBLE BENEFITS FOR ETHIOPIA FROM EC PROJECTS IN KENYA, SUCH AS TANA RIVER SCHEME. WAIYAKI OBSERVED THAT CHEYSSON HAD DESCRIBED THE SITUATION IN ADDIS ABABA AS NORMAL AND QUIET; THIS WAS IN CONTRAST TO TENSIONS, LACK OF AUTO TRAFFIC, HEAVILY ARMED PATROLS, ETC. WHICH WAIYAKI HAD SEEN WHEN HE PASSED THROUGH ADDIS TWO WEEKS EARLIER IN TRANSIT FROM MIDDLE EAST. HE HAD BEEN DELAYED FOR SIX HOURS WHILE HIS ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES PLANE WAS DIVERTED TO CARRY TROOPS--HE ASSUMED TO ERITREA.

5. POINT WAIYAKI WANTED TO MAKE REGARDING ETHIOPIA WAS THAT OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES DID NOT NECESSARILY FIND THEMSELVES AS UNPOPULAR AS U.S. I INTERJECTED THAT WE DID, OF COURSE, STILL MAINTAIN OUR EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA. WAIYAKI RECALLED EXPLANATION OFFERED BY VISITING DERGUE MEMBER MAJ. NADEW ZEKARIAS IN LATE APRIL FOR ETHIOPIAN DECISION TO SEEK ARMS FROM SOVIETS. ZEKARIAS HAD CLAIMED THAT THIS DECISION PROMPTED BY U.S. CUTOFF OF ARMS BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN ETHIOPIA. I TOLD WAIYAKI THAT THIS WAS NOT THE FULL STORY; IN FACT, ETHIOPIA HAD JUMPED THE GUN SINCE THERE HAD NEVER BEEN A U.S. DECISION TO CUT OFF ALL ARMS SUPPLIES. I ADDED THAT WE WERE NOT GIVING UP ON ETHIOPIA, AND THAT WE FAVORED GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN KENYA AND ETHIOPIA. WAIYAKI SAID ZEKARIAS HAD MADE A POINT OF STRESSING ETHIOPIA'S KEEN INTEREST IN KEEPING ON GOOD TERMS WITH KENYA, EVEN THOUGH EPMG FULLY AWARE OF KENYA'S CLOSENESS TO SUDAN. KENYA, FOR ITS PART, HAD ASKED ETHIOPIA TO MEDIATE ITS QUARREL WITH

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TANZANIA.

6. WAIYAKI REVIEWED RECENT CONTACTS WITH EGYPTIAN, SUDANESE AND SOMALI AMBASSADORS, WHO HAD ALL SOUGHT HIM OUT ON QUESTION OF PRYING SOMALIA LOOSE FROM SOVIET CAMP. THEY WERE IN EFFECT SEEKING KENYA'S ACQUIESCENCE IN AN ENCIRCLEMENT OF ETHIOPIA. HE SAID THE SOMALI AMBASSADOR OPENLY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE WEST WOULD HELP SOMALIA TO FORSAKE LINKS WITH USSR. EGYPTIAN AND SUDANESE AMBASSADORS HAD TOLD HIM THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO PICK UP THE TAB IF SOMALIA WOULD MOVE AWAY FROM THE SOVIETS. SHEIKH ZAYID OF UAE HAD ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBLE FINANCIAL HELP TO SOMALIA WHEN HE RECEIVED WAIYAKI IN EARLY MAY. WAIYAKI FELT THAT SOMALIS WERE SERIOUS ABOUT CUTTING TIES WITH MOSCOW--AS ARABS, THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO DEPEND ON THE SOVIETS.

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